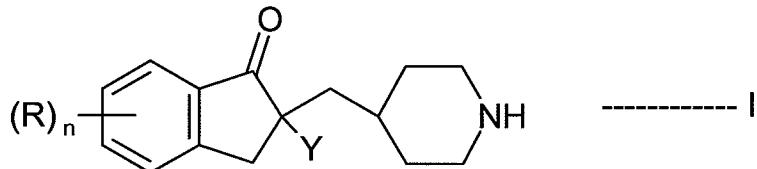


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

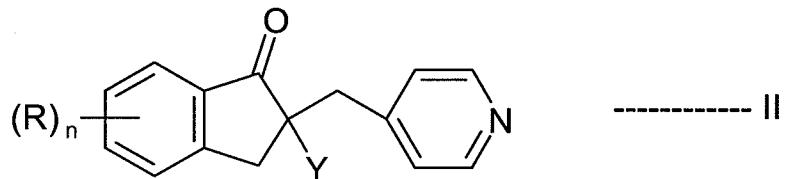
Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended): A process for the preparation of the compound of the general formula I or a salt thereof:



wherein R represents, the same as or different from each other, a hydrogen atom or a lower alkoxy group, n represents an integer of 1 to 4 and Y represents H or F,

which comprises hydrogenating the compound of the general formula II:



wherein R, n and Y have the same meaning as defined above, with hydrogen using platinum oxide, palladium-carbon, raney nickel or ruthenium oxide catalyst in a solvent selected from the group consisting of alcohols, methanol, ethanol, acetonitrile, tetrahydrofuran,

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dimethylformamide, dimethylsulfoxide, dioxane, aromatic hydrocarbons, benzene, toluene, xylene, halogenated hydrocarbons, dichloromethane, chloroform, carbontetrachloride, ketones, acetone, methyl ethyl ketone, ethyl isobutyl ketone, ethers, tert-butyl methyl ether, carboxylates, ethyl acetate, and mixtures thereof, in the presence of an acid in the quantities ranging from 0.1 to 10 moles of the acid per mole of the compound of formula II, under a hydrogen pressure of 1 to 10 bars and optionally converting the compound of the formula I to the salt.

2. (Original): The process according to claim 1, wherein R is methoxy or ethoxy; n is 1-3; and Y is fluorine or hydrogen.

3. (Original): The process according to claim 1, wherein the compound of the formula I is 4-[(5,6-dimethoxy-1-indanon)-2-yl]methylpiperidine or a salt thereof.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein 0.5 to 5.0 moles of the acid per mole of the compound of formula II is used.

6. (Original): The process according to claim 1, wherein the acid is selected from hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid, phosphoric acid and acetic acid.

7. (Original): The process according to claim 6, wherein the acid is hydrochloric acid.

8. (Original): The process according to claim 1, wherein the catalyst is platinum oxide.

9. (Original): The process according to claim 1, wherein the pressure is about 1 to 6 bars.

10. (Original): The process according to claim 9, wherein the pressure is about 1 to 4 bars.

11. (Canceled)

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12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)